

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application, dependent claims 33 and 34 having been added by this supplemental amendment. Claims 1 and 14 are independent.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment and to review these claims along with those presented in the September 27, 2000 Amendment. Claims 33 and 34 are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons advanced in the September 27, 2000 Amendment, and/or for the further limitations claimed therein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above supplementary amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A favorable action regarding each of claims 1-34 in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew J. Lattig (Reg. No. 45,274) at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss this application.

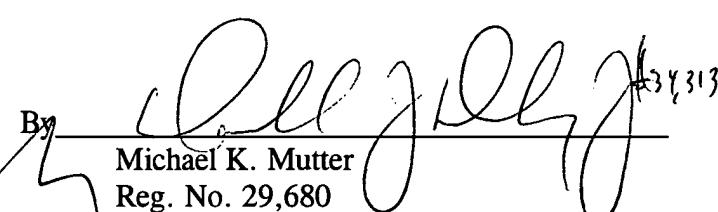
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

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additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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